



Borough of Weston-super-Mare



Annual Health Report

FOR THE YEAR

1937

INCLUDING THE

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

A. E. REMMETT WEAVER, M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H.,

The Meteorological Report

and the

Report of the Sanitary Inspector,

H. W. BLADON, F.S.I.A.,

Borough of Weston-super-Mare.



Health Committee, 1937-38.

CHAIRMAN : Alderman P. E. CULLING.

VICE-CHAIRMAN : Councillor W. B. CRAIG.

Alderman B. T. BUTTER	Councillor T. A. JONES
Alderman J. J. LEAVER	Councillor Mrs. M. E. LUCAS
Councillor H. BICKNELL	Councillor W. C. SLEEP
Councillor L. S. BROWN	Councillor E. M. SMITH
Councillor A. J. HYBYRNE	Councillor G. WOOD

and

His WORSHIP the MAYOR, Alderman HENRY BUTT, J.P.

Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, 1937-38.

CHAIRMAN : Councillor Mrs. M. E. LUCAS.

All the members of the Health Committee with the following
co-opted ladies :—

Lady DAVIES	Mrs. W. J. SCOTTON
Mrs. J. L. EDMUNDS	Mrs. B. WESTON
Mrs. A. J. HYBYRNE	Mrs. A. E. WOOLLEY

TOWN CLERK : Mr. LAWRENCE G. WATSON.

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR : Mr. HAROLD A. BROWN.

Health Department.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND SUPERINTENDENT OF
ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Dr. A. E. REMMETT WEAVER.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR :	SANITARY INSPECTOR :
Mr. H. W. BLADON.	Mr. CHAS. E. URCH.
HEALTH VISITOR :	ASST. HEALTH VISITORS :
Miss D. DALLAWAY.	Miss A. E. ROSSITER.
	Mrs. A. M. BISHOP.

MATRON ISOLATION HOSPITAL : Miss A. MANEY

CLERKS : Miss D. B. POWELL, Miss J. STOWER.

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TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF
THE BOROUGH OF WESTON-SUPER-MARE.

MR. MAYOR, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Health Report for 1937. It includes my Public Health and Meteorological Reports and the Report of your Chief Sanitary Inspector. This is the ninth Annual Report I have prepared, but the first I have had the honour and pleasure of submitting to the Council of the Borough of Weston-super-Mare.

The vital statistics are again very satisfactory. They show a low general death-rate, which is as usual lower than that for the whole country ; a low rate of infant mortality—considerably less than that for England and Wales ; for the second year no deaths from scarlet fever, diphtheria, measles or whooping-cough ; and for the fifth year in succession no deaths from infant diarrhoea which was formerly the most frequent single cause of infant deaths.

I regret the late issue of the Health Report, but the essential figures for the preparation of the vital statistics were only received from the Registrar-General to-day.

I desire once more to tender my thanks to the Chairmen and the Members of the Health and the Maternity and Child Welfare Committees for their confidence and support, and to the officers of the Health and other Departments for their continued assistance and co-operation.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. E. REMMETT WEAVER,

Medical Officer of Health.

12th May, 1938.

Borough of Weston-super-Mare

Statistical Memoranda, 1937.

SITUATION.

Latitude, $51^{\circ} 20' 45''$ N.—Longitude, $2^{\circ} 58' 30''$ W.

AREA.

4,921 acres (excluding 2,085 acres of Foreshore).

GEOLOGICAL FORMATION.

Limestone Rock and Sand chiefly.

ELEVATION OF AREA BUILT ON.

26 feet to 300 feet.

SLOPE.

Southerly.

POPULATION (Civilian).

Census, April, 1931, 31,706. Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid-year, 1936, 32,340.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (December, 1936), 9,301.

RATEABLE VALUE, 1st April, 1937, £405,915 (Council and Government Houses included).

SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE, £1,545.

RAINFALL.

34.42 inches in 1937—average previous 10 years, 31.75 inches.

BRIGHT SUNSHINE.

1,541.2 hours in 1937—average previous 10 years, 1,515.9 hours.

WATER SUPPLY.

Constant service from Banwell spring.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

By water carriage—Outfall 2 miles south of Town Hall into Bristol Channel.

BIRTH RATE.

10.6 per 1,000—average previous 10 years, 10.3.

INFANT MORTALITY.

40.3 per 1,000 births—average previous 10 years, 45.9.

DEATH RATE (adjusted).

10.6 per 1,000—average previous 10 years, 9.8.

Natural and Social Conditions.

Weston is not only a holiday centre, but an excellent summer and winter health resort and residential district. It is endowed with an exceptionally health-giving climate and many natural beauties and amenities which have been well supplemented by public and private enterprise. Standing on the beautiful Weston Bay and looking due west, it enjoys the pure air and sunshine of the Atlantic Ocean but is sheltered from the north by Worlebury Hill.

The **climate** is temperate and equable, but very bracing. The average range of mean temperature is low—11·8 degrees. There is an abundance of sunshine, the yearly average for the past 10 years being 1,534 hours. The yearly rainfall averages 31·8 inches, but wet days are rare, so that it is infrequent that outdoor exercise and sports cannot be pursued in the dry during some considerable portion of the day.

During the **invalids' winter**, the five months November to March, the mean temperature is relatively high, 43·4°, and the daily range only 9·2°. The sunshine averages 2·45 hours per day, while rain falls on less than an average of 11 days per month. The infrequency of frosts and the rarity of snow testify to the mildness of the winter climate.

At any season Weston is beneficial to invalids and convalescents, town workers and children, especially those from India and the Tropics. More specifically Weston can be recommended for all convalescents ; the anæmic, catarrhal and dyspeptic ; neurasthenia, insomnia and chronic nervous troubles ; asthma ; fibroid phthisis and tuberculous joints and glands ; and chronic renal and rheumatic diseases.

The chief **occupations** of the inhabitants are connected with the provision of accommodation and entertainment for visitors and services and trades ancillary thereto. Industries are few and present no special dangers to public health.

Unemployment is seasonal and fluctuated last year from 520 persons in July to 1,182 in January. These numbers represent 6 per cent. and 13·5 per cent. respectively of the insured persons in the Urban District. In 1936 the lowest and highest percentages were 7 in July and 13·9 in January and 12 in November.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for 1937.

LIVE BIRTHS	{ Legitimate Illegitimate Total	...	M. 156	F. 175	Total. 331	}	Birth-rate 10·6 per 1,000
		...	6	10	16		
		...	162	185	347		
STILL BIRTHS	{ Legitimate Illegitimate Total	...	6	6	12	}	Rate per 1,000 total births 36·1
		...	—	1	1		
		...	6	7	13		
DEATHS	...	...	195	264	459	}	Death-rate 14·0 per 1,000 Adjusted death-rate 10·6
Deaths from Puerperal Causes:							
					Deaths.		Rate per 1,000 total births.
Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...	1	...	2·7
Other puerperal causes...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2·7
Total	...	...	...	...	2	...	5·5
Death-rate of Infants under one year of age:							
All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	40·3
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	36·2
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	125·0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S TABLE.

BIRTH-RATES, DEATH-RATES AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY IN THE YEAR 1937.

(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.)

	England and Wales.	125 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Popula- tions 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census).	London Adminis- trative County.
	Rates per 1,000 Population.			
Births :—				
Live	14·9	14·9	15·3	13·3
Still	0·60	0·67	0·64	0·54
Deaths :—				
All Causes	12·4	12·5	11·9	12·3
Typhoid and Para- typhoid fevers)	0·00	0·01	0·00	0·00
Small-pox	—	—	—	—
Measles	0·02	0·03	0·02	0·01
Scarlet fever	0·01	0·01	0·01	0·01
Whooping Cough	0·04	0·04	0·03	0·06
Diphtheria	0·07	0·08	0·05	0·05
Influenza	0·45	0·39	0·42	0·38
Violence	0·54	0·45	0·42	0·51
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births.			
Deaths under 1 year of age	58	62	55	60
Deaths from Diarrhœa and Enteritis under 2 years of age ...	5·8	7·9	3·2	12·0
	England and Wales. Rate per 1,000 Births.			
Maternal mortality :—	Live Births.		Total Births.	
Puerperal Sepsis ...	0·97		0·94	
Others	2·26		2·17	
Total	3·23		3·11	

Vital Statistics.

POPULATION.

				Total.	Males.	Females.
1921 Census (June)	...	...		34,039	13,502	20,537
1931 Census (April)	...	...		31,706	12,939	18,767
1933 Mid-year Registrar-General's Estimate	...			32,010	—	—
1934	„	„	...	32,330	—	—
1935	„	„	...	32,490	—	—
1936	„	„	...	32,340	—	—
1937	„	„	...	32,680	—	—

The populations given above are adjusted for the District as extended on 1st April, 1933.

BIRTHS.

								Average
		1937.		1936.		1935.		1925-34.
Number of births	...	347	...	349	...	309	...	300
Birth-rate	...	10·6	...	10·7	...	9·5	...	10·7
Birth-rate, England and Wales	...	14·9	...	14·8	...	14·7	...	16·2

REGISTERED BIRTHS. After allowing for inward and outward transfers, the Registrar-General credited to this District for the past year 347 live births (162 boys and 185 girls), and of these 16 were illegitimate (6 boys and 10 girls). The registered still births were 13 (6 boys and 7 girls), of which 1 girl was illegitimate.

The birth-rate for 1937 was 10·6 per 1,000 of the population as estimated by the Registrar-General. This is about the average birth-rate for this District in recent years, but is much below the rate for the whole country (14·9) and for the 148 smaller towns (15·3).

NOTIFIED BIRTHS. The accompanying statistics give details of the notifications of births during 1937 :

NOTIFICATIONS OF BIRTHS, 1937.

Notifications (including still births), total	...	...	364
Notifications by doctors	...	...	162
Notifications by midwives	...	...	202
Still births	...	...	15
Live births	...	...	349
Total Births...	...	...	364
Male births	...	...	177
Female births	...	...	187
Transfers (inward)	...	...	47

Month.	Total.	Live Births.		Still Births.	
		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
January ...	35	17	17	1	0
February	34	18	15	0	1
March ...	27	13	12	1	1
April ...	27	10	16	1	0
May ...	44	23	19	1	1
June ...	34	12	21	0	1
July ...	36	15	19	1	1
August ...	29	15	13	1	0
September	27	14	10	1	2
October ...	19	8	10	0	1
November	18	9	9	0	0
December	34	16	18	0	0
	<u>364</u>	<u>170</u>	<u>179</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>

	DEATHS.				Average
	1937.	1936.	1935.	1925-34.	
Number of deaths	459	450	397	357	
Crude death-rate	14·0	13·9	12·2	12·7	
Adjusted death-rate	10·6	10·5	9·2	9·7	
Death-rate, England					
and Wales	12·4	12·1	11·7	12·1	

The number of deaths registered as having occurred in the Urban District last year was 429. After deducting the deaths of “ non-residents ” and adding the deaths of residents in institutions and other places outside the District the Registrar-General credited to Weston-super-Mare a net total of 459 deaths, of which 195 were of males and 264 of females.

(The Local Registrar's returns, when adjusted for inward and outward transfers, show one less female death and a total of 458 deaths.)

On the basis of 459 deaths the crude death-rate was 14·0 per 1,000 of the population as estimated by the Registrar-General. When adjusted for sex and age distribution, to make it comparable with other districts, the local death-rate was 10·6 and, as usual, this was well below that for the whole country, 12·4, and for the smaller towns, 11·9.

SEASONAL MORTALITY. The number of deaths in the four quarters were: First quarter 138, second quarter 107, third quarter 95, and fourth quarter 118. As is usual, the mortality was lowest in the summer months of the July to September quarter and highest in the winter months of the first and fourth quarters. The abnormal seasonal distribution of 1935 has not recurred.

SEX AND AGE DISTRIBUTION. The following table shows the very high proportion of deaths during advanced life. More than half the deaths occurred at and over "three score years and ten."

SEX AND AGE DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS, 1937.

Ages at death		(Local Figures.)					
in years.		Males.		Females.		Total.	
Under 1	8	...	6	...	14
1 to 9	2	...	3	...	5
10 to 24	6	...	5	...	11
25 to 44	11	...	14	...	25
45 to 64	54	...	57	...	111
65 to 69	22	...	24	...	46
			—103		—109		—212
70 to 74	33	...	44	...	77
75 to 79	27	...	41	...	68
80 to 84	13	...	37	...	50
85 to 89	16	...	22	...	38
90 to 94	3	...	10	...	13
95 to 99	—	...	—	...	—
			— 92		—154		—246
			195		263		458

CAUSES OF DEATH. The accompanying table gives the causes of death as classified by the Registrar-General.

**CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE BOROUGH OF
WESTON-SUPER-MARE**

Based on Registrar-General's Figures.

CAUSES OF DEATH.					1937.	
					Males.	Females.
ALL CAUSES	...	...	Total	459	195	264
1	Typhoid and para-typhoid fevers	...			—	—
2	Measles	...	...	...	—	—
3	Scarlet fever	...	...	...	—	—
4	Whooping-cough	...	...	...	—	—
5	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—
6	Influenza	...	...	...	5	9
7	Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...	3	1
8	Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	—	—
9	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	6	6
10	Other tuberculous diseases	...	...	...	2	3
11	Syphilis	...	...	...	2	—
12	General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	...	...	...	—	—
13	Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	33	42
14	Diabetes	...	...	...	4	3
15	Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc.	...	...	...	12	17
16	Heart disease	...	...	...	60	70
17	Aneurysm	...	...	...	—	—
18	Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	8	18
19	Bronchitis	...	...	...	5	4
20	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	6	12
21	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	2	—
22	Peptic ulcer	...	...	...	1	—
23	Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	—	—
24	Appendicitis	...	...	...	—	1
25	Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	—	1
26	Other diseases of liver, etc.	...	...	...	1	2
27	Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	1	7
28	Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	...	7	16
29	Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	—	1
30	Other puerperal causes	...	...	...	—	1
31	Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, etc.	...	...	...	6	6
32	Senility	...	...	...	4	15
33	Suicide	...	...	...	5	2
34	Other violence	...	...	...	5	8
35	Other defined diseases	...	...	...	16	19
36	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	1	—
Special causes (included in No. 35 above)—						
	Small-pox	...	...	...	—	—
	Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—
	Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year						
{ Total					8	6
{ Legitimate					7	5
{ Illegitimate					1	1
RESIDENT POPULATION Mid-year, 1937					32,680	

INQUESTS. The inquests held by the Coroner in the District last year numbered 46, of which 36 were upon residents of Weston-super-Mare and 10 upon non-residents. Five inquests upon Weston-super-Mare residents were held outside the District. The 41 inquests upon residents represented 8·9 per cent. of the total number of deaths. The following is a summary of the results of all the inquests :

Cause of Death.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Natural causes	11	13	24
Accidents :			
Motor car	3	3	6
Motor cycle	2	—	2
Falls	—	3	3
Train	—	1	1
Drowning	1	2	3
Scalds	1	—	1
Suffocation at birth	—	1	1
Gas poisoning	1	1	2
Anæsthetic	1	—	1
Illegal operation	—	1	1
Suicide	4	2	6
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	24	27	51
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

INFANT MORTALITY.

	1937.	1936.	1935.	Average 1925-34.
Number of infant deaths ...	14 ...	9 ...	14 ...	15·3
Infant mortality	40·3 ...	25·7 ...	45·3 ...	50·9
Infant mortality, England and Wales	58 ...	59 ...	57 ...	66

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age registered last year was 14 (8 boys and 6 girls), of whom 2 (1 boy and 1 girl) were illegitimate. These 14 deaths represent an infant mortality rate of 40·3 per 1,000 live births. Though this rate was higher than in 1936, owing to a relatively larger number of premature births than usual, it

was a low rate and compares very favourably indeed with that for the whole country, which was 58, or nearly 18 per 1,000 higher.

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY. In the Report for 1934 attention was drawn to the relatively greater fall in the mortality of infants between the ages of one month and one year than in the first month of life—*the neo-natal period*. During the past three years this disproportion has been greater still. Of the 37 infants who died during the three years, *only four were over one month old*—and one of these deaths was due to congenital heart disease. These facts would seem to indicate that the infant welfare service has been very successful in preventing the former heavy infant mortality, but not of course the deaths due to prematurity and congenital defects, which are, in the present state of our knowledge, non-preventable.

CAUSES OF DEATH. Of the 14 infant deaths last year, 9 were due to prematurity, 2 to non-expansion of lungs, 1 to accidental scalding, and 1 to septic meningitis. It is worthy of notice that for the fifth year in succession there were no deaths from infant diarrhoea and enteritis. In England and Wales the mortality from these diseases was 5·8 and in the large towns 7·9 per 1,000 live births. The accompanying table (p. 14) shows the causes of infant deaths in this district during the last ten years.

CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS, 1928-37.

Causes of Death	Under 1 month			1 to 12 months			Total under 1 year		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Measles	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1
Whooping Cough	1	—	1	2	1	3	3	1	4
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1
Meningitis, Septic	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1
Tuberculosis :									
Nervous System	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	2	2
Intestines and Peritoneum	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1
Convulsions	1	—	1	—	2	2	1	2	3
Bronchitis	1	—	1	2	2	4	3	2	5
Pneumonia	—	1	1	10	5	15	10	6	16
Empyema	—	—	—	1	1	2	1	1	2
Pulmonary Abscess	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	1	—	1	4	2	6	5	2	7
Congenital Malformations	9	2	11	2	1	3	12	2	14
Congenital Debility	1	2	3	—	2	2	1	4	5
Premature Birth	26	15	41	1	—	1	27	15	42
Atelectasis	6	8	14	—	—	—	6	8	14
Icterus and Melæna	2	2	4	—	—	—	2	2	4
Infection via umbilicus	2	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	2
Accidental Suffocation	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Injury at Birth	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Inattention at Birth	1	2	3	—	—	—	1	2	3
Toxæmia	1	1	2	—	—	—	1	1	2
Leukæmia (lymphatic)	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	1
Hæmophilia	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Accidental Scalds	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1
Operation Shock	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
TOTALS	56	33	89	28	19	47	85	51	136

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health and Superintendent of Isolation Hospital. A. E. REMMETT WEAVER,† M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector, Meat Inspector, and Drainage Inspector. H. W. BLADON,† Fellow Sanitary Inspector's Association ; Robertson Prizeman Meat and Food Inspection ; Robertson Prizeman Practical Sanitation ; Founder's Prizeman in Hygiene, Birmingham and Midland Institute.

Sanitary Inspector. CHARLES E. URCH,† Sanitary Inspector's and Meat Inspector's Certificates, Royal Sanitary Institute.

Health Visitor. Miss DORIS E. DALLAWAY, State Registered Nurse, Sanitary Inspector's Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute, Certificate of Central Midwives Board.

Assistant Health Visitors. Miss ANNIE E. ROSSITER, Certificate of Central Midwives Board, Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute for Health Visitors.

Mrs. ANNIE M. BISHOP, State Registered Nurse, Certificate of the Central Midwives Board, Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute for Health Visitors.

Matron Isolation Hospital. Miss A. MANEY, State Registered Nurse and Registered Fever Nurse, Certificate of Central Midwives Board.

Abattoir Superintendent. JOHN STEWARDSON, Meat Inspector's and Sanitary Inspector's Certificates, Royal Sanitary Institute and Meat Certificate Liverpool University School of Hygiene.

Clerk. Miss D. B. POWELL.

Junior Clerk. Miss J. R. STOWER.

† Salary contribution by Exchequer grants.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The provision of a Laboratory at the Town Hall has been considered from time to time during the past few years. The removal of the County Laboratory to Taunton raised the question again, but no definite scheme has been prepared in view of the possibility of a well-equipped Laboratory being provided at the General Hospital. See also p. 44.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a) FOR INFECTIOUS CASES. The Council possesses a 20-h.p. fever ambulance.

(b) FOR NON-INFECTIOUS AND ACCIDENT CASES. The St. John Ambulance Brigade has three motor ambulances available at its headquarters in Oxford Street. There is need for additions or replacements.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Particulars of the voluntary Welfare Centres, Ante-Natal Clinic and Day Nursery are given in the Maternity and Child Welfare section pp. 18—26.

The following Clinics and Treatment Centres are provided by the County Council.

At Clifton House, 46 Boulevard :

1. SCHOOL CLINIC. Tuesday afternoons at 2 and Saturday mornings at 9.30. Medical Officer, Dr. G. H. Pringle.

2. ORTHOPÆDIC CLINIC. Mondays—Surgeon's Clinic second Monday in each month. Orthopædic Surgeon, Miss Forrester-Brown, M.D., M.S.

3. ARTIFICIAL LIGHT CLINIC. Monday mornings and Thursday afternoons. Medical Officer, Dr. Latimer J. Short.

4. TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY. Tuesdays. Tuberculosis Officer, Dr. Latimer J. Short.

5. VENEREAL DISEASES CLINIC. For men : Tuesdays, 6—7.30 p.m., and Fridays, 6—7 p.m. For women : Tuesdays, 3.30 p.m., and Saturdays, 10.45 a.m. Medical Officer, Dr. G. H. Pringle.

6. EYE CLINIC FOR INFANTS AND SCHOOL CHILDREN. By arrangement. County Oculist, Dr. Ian Georgeson.

At the General Hospital :

7. MENTAL CLINIC. Second and last Saturday mornings in each month at 11.30 a.m. Medical Officer, Dr. J. McGarvey, Wells Mental Hospital.

HOSPITALS.

I. WITHIN THE BOROUGH.

1. WESTON-SUPER-MARE ISOLATION HOSPITAL. The Council's Hospital for Infectious Diseases is situated in Drove Road on a site of $2\frac{3}{4}$ acres. It comprises a cubicle, temporary diphtheria and two fever blocks, with administration, laundry and disinfection blocks. The cubicle block, which contains an operation room, and the administration block were opened in December, 1935, and are of the most modern design and construction. The erection of a new laundry block is much needed and has been under consideration for some years.

The present accommodation is for 28 beds—8 in the new cubicles, 14 in the two old permanent blocks and 6 in the temporary diphtheria block. The "Scheme for the provision of hospital accommodation for the treatment of infectious disease in the County of Somerset," made by the County Council in accordance with Section 63 of the Local Government Act, 1929, requires the Weston-super-Mare Hospital to have a minimum accommodation for 32 beds, and sooner or later this must be provided.

2. THE GENERAL HOSPITAL. This voluntary hospital has accommodation for 104 beds. There are fully equipped casualty, out-patient and X-ray departments, and special clinics for mental, skin and eye cases. Five maternity beds are subsidised by the Borough Council.

II. OUTSIDE THE BOROUGH.

1. BRIDGWATER BABY HOSPITAL. This hospital for six babies is maintained by the County Council.

2. SMALL-POX. The County Council have provided a small-pox hospital for 20 beds at Cossington, about 12 miles distant, and have undertaken the isolation and treatment of any small-pox cases occurring in the Borough.

3. BATH AND WESSEX CHILDREN'S ORTHOPÆDIC HOSPITAL. This voluntary hospital is subsidised by the Somerset and Wilts County, and Bath City Councils, and also receives patients sent by Borough and District Councils within the area. The hospital is recognised as a Special School by the Board of Education.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Council's Scheme is administered through the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, which includes six co-opted ladies, four of whom are representatives of the Voluntary Association.

HEALTH VISITING.

The Chief Health Visitor devotes only a portion of her time to infant visiting, as she is employed by the County Council on tuberculosis duties in the Borough, and she also attends the Major Orthopædic Clinic, thus securing co-ordination with the County Tuberculosis and Orthopædic Schemes. The Assistant Visitor gives her whole time to maternity and child welfare duties, including attendance at the Voluntary Welfare Centres and Ante-Natal Clinic.

Where advice on infant hygiene is likely to be necessary or welcomed, notified births are promptly visited, and the children kept under observation until five years of age. Expectant mothers are visited as far as they are known.

SUMMARY OF VISITS, 1937.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE :

First visits paid to infants under 1 year	...	313
Re-visits paid to infants under 1 year	...	1,578
Re-visits to children 1 to 5 years	...	3,554
Total visits to infants and young children	—	5,445
First visits to expectant mothers	...	95
Re-visits to expectant mothers	...	66
Total visits to expectant mothers	—	161
Visits <i>re</i> milk grants	...	189
Visits to Boarded-out Children	...	180
Visits <i>re</i> measles and whooping-cough in children under 5 years	...	67
Visits <i>re</i> ophthalmia neonatorum and puerperal infections	...	22
Attendances at Welfare Centres and Ante-Natal Clinic	...	157
		<hr/> 6,221

OTHER VISITS :

Tuberculosis	...	538
Other notifiable infectious diseases	...	155
Non-notifiable infectious diseases	...	47
Miscellaneous	...	120
		<hr/> 860
Total visits	...	<hr/> 7,081 <hr/>

In January of the present year the Council decided to engage a third Health Visitor. This appointment will enable the Health Visitors to devote more time to health instruction in the homes. It cannot be too strongly emphasised that the most important part of the Health Visitors' duties is the health education of the mothers. Propaganda by means of exhibitions and lectures, or by booklets, circulars and newspaper articles appeals only to those with the leisure and disposition to attend meetings or to read. Many of the mothers, particularly of the low wage earning classes, have neither the time nor the energy to spare from their long and tiring home duties to attend lectures or exhibitions, or to read health

articles or circulars. What little leisure they can snatch they very naturally want to devote to recreations which will take their minds off the cares of their homes and children. The only sure means of interesting and instructing the average mother is by a tactful Health Visitor seeing her in her home and having a sympathetic heart-to-heart talk with her.

EXTRA NOURISHMENT.

MILK GRANTS. In cases of proved necessity pasteurised or dried milk or milk foods are supplied free or at half cost to children under five years of age and to expectant and nursing mothers. The grants to expectant mothers are not restricted to the last three months of pregnancy.

The supply of extra nourishment to many families has been facilitated by establishing co-operation with the Unemployment Assistance Board.

During the past year milk grants were made to 180 families, including 37 expectant and 60 nursing mothers and 194 children ; 36,668 pints of liquid milk and 135 packets of dried milk or milk foods being supplied at a total cost of £395. 19s. 7d. In the previous year grants were made to 182 families at a cost of £385. 4s. 8d., and in 1935 to 137 families at a cost of £290. 14s. 7d.

MEALS for mothers and children are not provided.

RICKETS. In addition to milk, the Medical Officer of Health has authority to grant to cases of rickets, or incipient rickets, special Vitamin A. and D. preparations, and artificial light and orthopædic treatment. Last year maltoline, virol, etc. were supplied to 5 children at a total cost of £1. 8s. 0d. In the previous year similar preparations were given to 10 children at a cost of £1. 10s. 3d.

SPECIAL EXAMINATIONS AND TREATMENT.

LIGHT TREATMENT. Twelve children suffering from rickets, debility, enlarged glands, etc., and needing artificial sunlight therapy were sent to the County Light Clinic last year. In the previous year the number of children referred was 17.

ORTHOPÆDIC TREATMENT. Children needing special orthopædic examination or treatment are referred to the County Orthopædic Clinic, and any found to need in-patient treatment are sent to the Bath and Wessex Children's Orthopædic Hospital, Combe Park, Bath. The Borough Council pays for examinations and treatment at the Clinic, but parents are required to contribute according to their means towards the cost of surgical appliances and in-patient treatment.

During the past year 19 children suffering from early orthopædic defects were notified by private doctors, the Medical Officers of the Welfare Centres, or the Health Visitors. The Medical Officer of Health referred 16 of these to the Orthopædic Clinic. In the previous year 37 cases were reported and 23 of them were referred to the Orthopædic Clinic.

Four children were sent to the Bath Orthopædic Hospital : three girls for treatment for infantile paralysis and one boy for remedy of a deformed hand. The total stay of the four children in Hospital was 54 weeks, and the cost, £141. 15s. 0d. The Maternity and Child Welfare Committee assisted parents in the provision of surgical instruments at a cost of £10.

The expenditure on in-patient treatment was unprecedentedly large last year. Although special orthopædic treatment is costly, the prevention or reduction of permanent crippling more than justifies the expense.

DEFECTIVE SIGHT AND SQUINT. Last year six children were reported to be suffering from squint and one young baby from nystagmus. They were referred to the County Oculist for examination and treatment. The infant with nystagmus was subsequently admitted to the Bristol Eye Hospital for full examination.

DEAFNESS. Infants suffering from ear defects likely to produce deafness can be given assistance in obtaining treatment at the Special Departments of the Bristol Hospitals, when it cannot be supplied by private doctors or at the local General Hospital.

MINOR AILMENTS. Young children needing medical treatment for minor ailments can usually obtain it from the

family or Medical Aid doctor or at the General Hospital, but in order to deal with certain exceptional or special cases a Minor Ailment Clinic is provided at the Health Department.

BABY HOSPITAL. One marasmic infant was sent to the Bridgwater Baby Hospital last year. Its stay of 11 weeks cost the Council £16. 10s. 0d.

WELFARE CENTRES AND ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

The Weston-super-Mare Maternity and Child Welfare Association conducts the Welfare Centres and Ante-Natal Clinic.

This Association has now completed twenty years' beneficent service in the cause of the health and well-being of the children and mothers of the Town. On 19th February, 1918 (before the passing of the Maternity and Child Welfare Act), it opened a small Infant Welfare Centre at the Congregational Sunday School Rooms in Waterloo Street. A second Centre was started in June, 1920, at the Ashcombe Park Mission Room for the convenience of the mothers in the Milton and adjoining areas. A new departure was made in 1925 by establishing an Ante-Natal Clinic in connection with the Weston Centre. Owing to the great increase of attendances it was found necessary in 1932 to have a second session per week at the Weston Welfare Centre, and the Ante-Natal Clinic sessions have been increased from one a month to one per week. From small beginnings the activities of the Association have so much increased that now over 600 children make upwards of 5,100 attendances with more than 3,200 doctors' consultations per year at the Centres. The success of all these endeavours to improve the health of the children can be fully appreciated only by those who have been in close touch with the infant welfare service, but the saving of infant life can be proved to all by the fall in the infant mortality rate. During the three years prior to the opening of the first Welfare Centre the infant death rate was 93·4 per 1,000 births, while during the past three years it has averaged only 36·8, and in 1936 it reached the very low rate of 25·7 per 1,000 births. The history of the Association is a record of quiet, patient service and steady development by the voluntary and self-sacrificing labours of a group of enthusiastic

ladies, and it speaks well for their courage and their pertinacity in a good cause that the Association still numbers among its active workers several of those who founded the first Welfare Centre twenty years ago.

During the year 1937-38 Lady Davies was President, Mrs. Page Honorary Secretary, and Mrs. W. C. Thomas Honorary Treasurer of the Association, while Mrs. Edmunds remained Registrar of the Weston Centre and Mrs. Lewis Lovill Superintendent of the Milton Centre.

The Borough Council, in accordance with its Scheme under Section 101 of the Local Government Act, 1929, makes an annual contribution towards the expenditure of the Voluntary Association. The subsidy was originally £135 per annum, but as the work of the Association developed, additional financial assistance became necessary from time to time, and the Council's contribution is now £250 per annum.

The Council also assists by allowing the Assistant Health Visitor to act as Nurse at all meetings of the Welfare Centres and Ante-Natal Clinic.

WESTON CHILD WELFARE CENTRE. Congregational Church Hall, Waterloo Street; Tuesday afternoons at 2.30 and Friday mornings at 11 o'clock. Medical Officer, Dr. R. M. Alford.

This Centre is held in the very convenient and well-equipped Congregational Church Hall which is very kindly lent by the Minister and Deacons of the Church.

The total number of children who attended last year was 603, of whom 230 were new cases. The total number of attendances was 4,514, or 45 per session. Doctors' consultations amounted to 2,686, or nearly 27 per session.

For the first time for five years the attendances at this Centre did not show an increase and it is possible that the work has reached its maximum. Should further growth occur, the medical officer and ladies in charge will have great difficulty in dealing with it. Possibly a greater proportion of the mothers would have to take their children to the Milton Centre.

Two courses of Lectures to Mothers, arranged by Mrs. Page, were given by experts on the subjects dealt with.

They were well attended and provided useful and appropriate instruction.

The Thrift Club was again conducted by Mrs. Tomes. Last year 52 mothers joined the Club and £226 was paid out at Christmas.

MILTON CHILD WELFARE CENTRE. Mission Room, Ashcombe Park Road, on the second, fourth and fifth Wednesday afternoons of the month. Medical Officer, Dr. W. J. Petty.

The Association is indebted to Mr. J. J. Jackson Barstow, D.L., J.P., for the use of the Mission Room as a Welfare Centre for the Milton District.

The 1936 increase in the number of new cases, attendances and doctors' consultations was maintained last year; and this Centre continues to serve a very useful purpose and to do valuable work.

Mrs. Lewis Lovill, who is in charge of the Centre, gave some practical talks to the mothers, and Miss Lowther again organised the Thrift Club.

ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL CLINICS. Congregational Church Hall, Waterloo Street, Tuesday mornings at 11 o'clock. Medical Officers, Dr. Mary Somers and Dr. Hugh Powell.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC. The number of expectant mothers who attended last year was 125 (representing 33·2 per cent. of the total births). Though this was 10 less than in the previous year (when the number attending represented 36·9 per cent. of the total births), it was 76 and 72 more than in 1935 and 1934 respectively.

This clinic continues to prove its usefulness. Last year 35 mothers were recommended for in-patient treatment and 25 of these were admitted to the General Hospital Maternity Wards. Six were referred for medical advice and 22 to the Dental Department of the General Hospital.

POST-NATAL CASES. In conformity with Circular 1622 and the suggestions of the Ministry of Health, the Council in September asked the Maternity and Child Welfare Association if mothers could be examined after their confinements by the Ante-Natal Clinic Medical Officers. With its ever-ready

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES AND ANTE-NATAL CLINIC, 1937.

	Weston Centre.			Milton Centre.	Ante-Natal Clinic.	TOTALS. 1937.	TOTALS 1936.
	Weston Cases.	Out of District.	Total.				
1. Total number of sessions	—	—	100	25	48	173	173
Number of sessions with Medical Officer ...	—	—	100	23	48	171	170
2. Newly-joining children (a) under 1 year of age	186	10	196	34	—	230	262
(b) 1—4 years of age ...	33	1	34	10	—	44	27
Total newly-joining children ...	219	11	230	44	—	274	289
Individual children who attended during year	580	23	603	82	—	685	659
3. Attendances of children (a) under 1 year of age	2,170	56	2,226	283	—	2,509	2,558
(b) 1—4 years of age ...	2,186	102	2,288	368	—	2,656	2,704
Total attendances of children ...	4,356	158	4,514	651	—	5,165	5,262
Average attendances of children ...	43·5	1·5	45·1	26	—	41·2	42·0
4. Doctors' consultations	—	—	2,686	550	—	3,236	3,164
Average per session	—	—	26·8	22	—	25·8	25·3
5. Newly-joining mothers	165	5	170	36	—	206	204
Individual mothers who attended during year	480	8	488	54	—	542	507
6. Total attendances of mothers ...	3,603	98	3,701	474	—	4,175	4,375
Average attendances of mothers ...	36	·9	37	19·1	—	33·4	35
7. Newly-joining expectant mothers ...	—	—	—	—	106	106	113
Individual expectant mothers who attended	—	—	—	—	125	125	135
8. Total attendances of expectant mothers ...	—	—	—	—	375	375	374
Average attendance of expectant mothers	—	—	—	—	7·3	7·3	7·8
9. Number of post-natal cases	—	—	—	—	2	2	—
Number of attendances	—	—	—	—	6	6	—
10. Number of lectures given	—	—	18	—	18	18	22
Average attendances at lectures ...	—	—	25	—	25	25	—

willingness to help, the Association agreed to co-operate in regard to post-natal examinations. It is hoped that this new arrangement will be of material benefit to the mothers, though it may be some time before they take full advantage of it.

The Council are deeply indebted to the Voluntary Association and to Dr. Mary Somers and Dr. Hugh Powell for their work for expectant and other mothers.

STATISTICS. The accompanying table summarises the attendances, etc., at the two Infant Welfare Centres and the Ante-Natal Clinic during 1937 with the corresponding totals for 1936 for comparison. The number of infants who attended the Welfare Centres for the first time last year represented 63 per cent. of the total number of live births during the year. Although this percentage is less than in the previous year, it is still extraordinarily large, particularly if the social constitution of the population be taken into account.

DAY NURSERY.

The "Beatrice Jones Day Nursery" on the sands is admirably conducted by a Voluntary Committee. It is open daily during the summer months, chiefly for the care of visitors' children, and is under the charge of a nurse, assisted by a rota of local ladies.

It has 24 rest couches and 16 sleeping places, with swings and other game facilities for the older children.

Mrs. Frampton, the Hon. Secretary, reports that last year the Nursery was open each day from 17th May to 1st September, and during this period 433 children were "cared for," 8 children's clothing was dried, and 241 lost children and 167 accidents were dealt with. The children were supplied with 115 bottles and 105 mugs of milk.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

BOARDED-OUT CHILDREN.

The Weston-super-Mare Borough Council is the Registration and Supervising Authority under Part I. of the Children Act, 1908. The Medical Officer of Health and Chief Health Visitor are the appointed Infant Protection Visitors.

At the end of 1936 there were on the " Register of Infants received for Reward " the names of 19 children (10 boys and 9 girls). During the past year the names of 33 children (14 boys and 19 girls) were added to the Register and the names of 28 children (13 boys and 15 girls) were removed, 25 having returned to the care of their parents or relatives, and 3 having been transferred to foster parents outside the District—leaving the names of 24 children (11 boys and 13 girls) on the Register at the end of 1937.

At the end of 1936 there were 10 names on the Register of " Persons receiving Infants for Reward." During 1937 5 names were removed and 3 fresh names added, leaving a balance of 8 names on the register at the end of the year.

All the children and foster-parents were systematically visited. As usual, the conditions found were satisfactory and in most homes very good. There was no necessity to take any proceedings. The general health of the children has been good, but one child is under observation for a minor orthopædic defect.

MIDWIFERY AND MATERNITY SERVICES.

MIDWIVES.

There were eight registered midwives practising in the Borough last year. They are still supervised by the County Council, the Ministry of Health having refused to make the Weston-super-Mare Council the supervising authority under the Midwives' Acts.

MATERNITY BEDS.

The Council have an arrangement with the General Hospital by which five beds and a labour ward are set aside in the Hospital's Private Wards for the sole use of maternity cases, the Council paying for cases admitted with the approval of the Medical Officer of Health at the rate of three guineas per week. The mothers contribute towards the cost of their treatment in accordance with their means, but many are assisted by the Hospital League.

During the past year 31 maternity cases were admitted under the Council's Scheme. Of these, 3 were emergencies,

25 were referred from the Ante-Natal Clinic, and 3 by private doctors—18 for medical or obstetric reasons and 10 owing to absence of suitable accommodation at home. Their average duration of stay in hospital was 14·4 days.

STERILISED MATERNITY OUTFITS.

The Council supply sterilised maternity outfits to patients for whom their doctors or midwives consider them desirable. Full sets can be purchased at the wholesale price of 5/10, and part sets at 2/9 from the Health Department, the Ante-Natal Clinic or the Welfare Centres.

DENTAL TREATMENT.

Under the arrangement made by the Maternity and Child Welfare Association, 20 mothers needing treatment for their teeth were referred to the Dental Department of the General Hospital last year. The Council have arranged with the Dental Surgeon of the Hospital to provide artificial dentures at a reduced cost, and also agreed to assist necessitous expectant and nursing mothers to purchase their dentures. Last year three mothers were provided with free artificial dentures, and one was given assistance, at a total cost to the Council of £14. 17s. 6d.

MATERNAL MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY.

During the ten years 1921-30 there were only two maternal deaths from puerperal sepsis and nine from other puerperal causes, giving a total puerperal mortality of 3·48 per 1,000 live births, as compared with 4·08 for the whole of England and Wales. As was likely to happen after some years of low mortality in a comparatively small district, the figures for the following two years were not so good, but in 1933 and 1934 there was only one each year and in 1935 and 1936 no maternal deaths. Last year there were two such deaths, one from sepsis and one other causes. The following comparison of the rates for the past ten years shows that locally the total puerperal mortality on the average is definitely lower than for the whole country :

Puerperal Mortality Rates per 1,000 live births :			Weston- super-Mare.		England and Wales.
			1928-37.		1928-37.
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	1·31	...	1·67
Other Puerperal Causes	...		2·28	...	2·50
Total Puerperal Mortality			3·59	...	4·17

The maternal morbidity is also satisfactory, only 12 cases of puerperal fever and 24 cases of puerperal pyrexia having been notified during the past ten years.

These notifications for the ten years give a total puerperal rate of approximately 11·2 per 1,000 total births. The corresponding rate for the whole country was 12·04 in 1936 and 13·9 in 1937.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER.

The Banwell spring provides a constant supply of excellent drinking water which flows by gravitation through a double pipe line to the Water Works in Milton Road, from whence it is pumped to the service reservoirs : low level at Montpelier and high level on Worlebury Hill.

The Banwell water is of exceptionally fine quality, being organically very pure and, although a limestone water, of only moderate hardness. In order to ensure its bacteriological purity when supplied to the town, the water is treated by the "chloramine" process at the Water Works before being pumped to the service reservoirs. Periodic bacteriological examinations of the town supply are made and show that the treatment is successful and that the water is bacteriologically very pure and safe for drinking purposes.

Last year 28 samples were examined with the following results :—Number of organisms growing at 21°C. per millilitre of water : Sterile or less than 1, 8 samples ; 1, 5 samples ; 2, 3 samples ; 3, 3 samples ; 4, 3 samples ; 5, 2 samples ; 6, 2 samples ; and 18, 1 sample. The average number of organisms per sample was 2·6 per millilitre. None of the samples showed coli or coli-ærogenes bacteria.

During the present year weekly samples are being examined.

Periodical chemical examinations also are made by the Council's Analysts, Messrs. Hehner & Cox, of London.

The following analysis, expressed in parts per 100,000, of a specimen taken on 5th May, 1937, is typical of the chemical composition of the water as supplied to the town :

Chlorine (as chlorides)	...	...	1·5=NaCl	2·5
Free Chlorine	...	...	...	0·02
Sulphuric Acid (SO ₃)	...	...	...	1·37
Nitric Acid (N ₂ O ₅)	...	...	...	0·5
Nitrites	...	...	...	Absent
Free Ammonia	...	...	...	0·012
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	0·001
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at 80°F. in				
15 mins.	...	...	...	0·003
Do. in 4 hours	...	...	...	0·013
Total solids dried at 212°F.	...	...	...	27·3
Loss on Ignition	...	...	...	1·8
Appearance of solids on heating	...	...	No change	
Hardness : Total	...	...	...	21·0
„ Temporary	...	...	...	19·1
„ Permanent	...	...	...	1·9
Heavy metals	...	...	...	Absent

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

See Sanitary Inspector's Report, page 52.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Particulars will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Report on pp. 55 and 56.

SHOPS.

Details of action taken during the year under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, are given in the Sanitary Inspector's Report, p. 55.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

The two covered Swimming Baths at Knightstone were provided with continuous filtration and chlorination plants some years ago.

The Glentworth Bay Lake is much used for open-air swimming and sun bathing. The seawater is renewed by the tides.

The open-air Swimming Pool on the south beach was opened on 1st July. The sea-water is efficiently and continuously filtered and chlorinated. A hygienic system of wire clothes hangers has been adopted, also showers and foot baths for use before entering the pool.

There are no privately owned swimming baths open to the public in the district.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

See Sanitary Inspector's Report, p. 54.

SCHOOLS.

The public elementary and secondary schools are under the control of the County Education Committee.

Sanitary inspections of all the schools were made and the conditions found to be very satisfactory, except in the case of one non-provided school which is to be rebuilt on a new site. Their water supply is obtained from the Council's mains.

Housing.

(A) STATISTICS, 1937.

1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	569
(b) Number of inspections made	1,039
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	145
(b) Number of inspections made	790
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	3
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	28

2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	61
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3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

A. *Proceedings under sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930 :*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after the service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners	5
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	10
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	10
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0

C. Proceedings under sections 19 and 20 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	7
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	4

D. Proceedings under section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0

4.—HOUSING ACT, 1935. OVERCROWDING.

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	10
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein ...	16
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ...	68
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	2
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	16
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	99½

CLEARANCE AREAS. One Clearance Order, involving 3 unfit and 1 fit houses, was made and the Compulsory Purchase Order was confirmed by the Minister of Health after a Local Inquiry.

NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING 1937.

Houses erected by (ii) Local Authority	46
(ii) Other Local Authorities ...	0
(iii) Other bodies or persons ...	224
Number of flats : New	2
Conversions	23
Number of new houses and flats	272

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

MILK SUPPLY.

All the cowsheds, dairies and milk-shops have been systematically inspected. The sanitary condition of the cowsheds and the cleanliness of the milk produced continue to improve as a result of steady propaganda. The dairies and milk-shops are generally satisfactory.

DESIGNATED MILKS. Last year the following licences were granted under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936 :

Tuberculin Tested Milk : Two supplementary licences to sell T.T. milk produced outside the District.

One licence to bottle and sell T.T. milk. This licence was revoked owing to non-compliance with the Regulations.

Pasteurised Milk : Two firms were granted supplementary licences to sell pasteurised milk produced outside the District. One of the licences was given up as the firm ceased to trade in Weston.

Accredited Milk : One producer is licensed by the County Council.

MILK EXAMINATIONS. During the past year six samples of accredited and ten samples of pasteurised milk were submitted to the County Bacteriologist for examination. All were reported to comply with the Regulations.

Six samples of herd milk also were examined and found to be free from tubercle bacilli.

ICE CREAM AND PRESERVED FOODS.

In accordance with Section 112 of the Weston-super-Mare Urban District Act, 1934, all manufacturers and sellers of ice-cream and their premises must be registered with the Council, and by Section 115 of the same Act all premises used, or proposed to be used, for the preparation or manufacture of potted or preserved meat, fish or other food must similarly be registered.

At the end of last year 139 registrations were made under Section 112 and 42 under Section 115.

Most of the ice-cream now sold in the Borough is made by large firms under good hygienic conditions and is sold largely in cartons or wrappers.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Weston-super-Mare is in the happy position of having a Public Abattoir but no private slaughter-houses.

The carcasses of all animals slaughtered at the Abattoir are subjected to the most careful inspection before they are removed for sale. Meat brought from outside the Borough is inspected in the shops as far as possible.

Details of condemned meat and other articles of food will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Report, pages 61—63.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

The Public Analyst and County Bacteriologist, Mr. D. R. Wood, F.I.C., carries out all necessary chemical and bacteriological examinations at the County Laboratory, County Hall, Taunton.

The Sale of Food and Drugs Acts are administered by the County Officers, who last year submitted 61 samples, including 43 of milk, taken in the District to the County Analyst, who reported all to be genuine except one sample of milk, which was adulterated, and the seller was cautioned.

For further details, see Sanitary Inspector's Report, p. 64.

NUTRITION AND HEALTH PROPAGANDA.

The Lectures to Mothers at the Welfare Centres include many useful talks on food, nutrition, clothing and general health topics, and so information directly reaches the most important persons concerned—namely, the mothers and housewives. Advice is also given in the homes by the Health Visitors. Eight hundred copies of the Somerset Edition of “Better Health” are distributed free each month.

The Council actively co-operated in the “National Campaign to encourage the wider use of the Health Services.” During the first week in October a Health and Fitness Publicity Stall was open at the Winter Gardens Pavilion. There was a varied display of health posters ; and pamphlets, leaflets and notices were distributed by Nurses from the local branches of the British Red Cross Society and St. John Ambulance Brigade. On three evenings and the Saturday afternoon displays of physical training were given by the Women’s League of Health and Beauty and a team of gymnasts from the Y.M.C.A. The local newspapers featured the Campaign, and their editors courteously inserted propaganda articles written by the Medical Officer of Health. The posters and folders supplied by the Government were widely displayed and circulated through the Welfare Centres, Clinics and Schools, and thousands of bookmarkers were distributed through the Public Library.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

NOTIFICATIONS.

The notifications of infectious diseases, excluding tuberculosis, during the past year numbered 71, being 11 less than in 1936, 15 less than in 1935, and 55 less than the average for the ten years 1927 to 1936.

The figures below show the incidence, as compared with the whole of England and Wales, of some of the more important notifiable infectious diseases in 1937 :

	Number of Notifications :		Incidence per 1,000 of Population :		
	Weston-s-Mare.	Eng. & W.	Weston-s-Mare.	Eng. & W.	
Scarlet fever ...	18	...	0·55	...	2·33
Diphtheria ...	9	...	0·27	...	1·49
Erysipelas ...	3	...	0·09	...	0·37

Particulars of the notifications and the number of cases removed to hospital, together with an analysis into age and locality groups, are given in the accompanying tables.

MORTALITY.

The following figures give a comparison between the local and national mortalities from infectious diseases during 1937 :

	Number of Deaths :		Death Rate : per 1,000 of Population :		
	Weston-s-Mare.	Eng. & W.	Weston-s-Mare.	Eng. & W.	
Scarlet fever ...	0	...	0	...	0·01
Diphtheria ...	0	...	0	...	0·07
Influenza ...	14	...	0·42	...	0·45
Measles ...	0	...	0	...	0·07
Whooping-cough	0	...	0	...	0·04
Tuberculosis (all forms)	17	...	0·52	...	0·69
Diarrhoea and enteritis			per 1,000 Births		
(under 2 years)	0	...	0	...	5·8

For notifications of and mortality from tuberculosis, see p. 45.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1937.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	Number of Cases Notified at ages													Removed to Isolation, etc., Hospitals.
	At all Ages.	0	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-34	35-44	45-64	65 & over.	
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	5	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	1*	
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3†	
Diphtheria ...	9	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	1	1	1	-	-	
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	9	
Erysipelas ...	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1*	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Paratyphoid Fever ...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1†	
Pneumonia ...	24	1	-	-	-	-	3	4	1	1	2	5	1	
Puerperal Fever ...	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	2	
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	2	
Scarlet Fever ...	18	-	-	-	-	-	11	3	2	1	-	-	15	
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	30	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	17	4	3	-	
Tuberculosis (Non-Pulmonary)	8	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	1	2	-	-	
TOTALS ...	109	5	-	-	1	1	20	15	7	27	12	14	7	

* General Hospital.

† Bath Orthopædic Hospital.

‡ Bristol Eye Hospital.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)
DURING THE YEAR 1937.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospitals.	Total Deaths.
Small-pox	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	18	15	0
Diphtheria	9	9	1*
Enteric Fever	0	0	0
Para-typhoid Fever ...	1	1	0
Puerperal Fever	3	3	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	2	0
Pneumonia	24	2	6
Erysipelas	3	1	0
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	1	4
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	5	4	1*
Food poisoning	0	0	0

* Not Weston cases.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases.			Vision im- paired.	Vision un-im- paired.	Total Blind- ness.	Deaths.
Notified	Treated.					
	At home.	In hospital				
4	3	1	0	4	0	0

DIPHTHERIA.

Last year there were 9 notifications of diphtheria, being 1 less than in the previous year and 32 less than the average for the previous ten years. One child from Bristol died, but there were no deaths of Weston residents.

As in the previous year, the District can be regarded as having been comparatively free from diphtheria during 1937. Of the 9 notifications, 1 proved not to be diphtheria and 2 were visitor children, leaving only 6 clinical Weston cases.

On the notification of a case of diphtheria all contacts in the house or institution are swabbed, and any " positives " suitably dealt with. Last year this procedure revealed three infected contacts or carriers.

Three negative swabs from both throat and nose are required before discharge of diphtheria patients from isolation, and swabs are subsequently taken by the Medical Officer of Health before a convalescent child is granted a re-admission certificate for school.

IMMUNISATION. Since 1930 nurses joining the staff of the General Hospital and, until the end of 1934, the staff of the Children's Convalescent Home, and also other persons applying to the Medical Officer of Health have been Schick tested and immunised if necessary. The results up to the end of 1937 are as follows :

Schick tested : Positive 87, negative 73, total 160.

Positives not immunised : 5.

Positives immunised :

Immunisation doses completed : 61.

Re-Schicked : Positive 2, negative 47, total 49.

Not re-Schicked : 12.

Immunisation doses not completed : 15.

Immunised by private doctors : 6.

Four children were immunised without Schick testing.

The Medical Officer of Health is prepared to immunise any children whose parents desire to protect them against diphtheria.

At various times between 1929 and 1934 the Medical Officer of Health reported to the Health Committee upon the advisability of introducing general immunisation of the child population of the District, but it was considered that the local conditions were not then favourable to securing that proportion of response which would make an immunisation scheme effective. Following a further report in January, 1935, the Medical Officer of Health was directed to prepare an immunisation scheme. He consulted the County Medical Officer as to how the children in the local schools, which are under the control of the County Council, could be dealt with, but Dr. Savage asked that local action should be deferred, as he was preparing a complete scheme for the whole County.

This was presented to the County Council in June, 1936, but owing to unavoidable delays, it was not until January, 1937, that its local application could be considered by the Weston Health Committee, who decided to co-operate and bear the local cost, if the scheme were accepted by the other Health Authorities in the County. No further action was taken by the County Council last year.

SCARLET FEVER.

The number of cases of scarlet fever notified last year was 18, which was 16 fewer than in 1936 and 37 fewer than the average for the previous 10 years. Of the 18 cases, 6 were non-residents, 4 being campers or visitors and 2 members of His Majesty's Forces—1 Navy and 1 Air Force—who apparently were sickening when they arrived in Weston on leave.

Fifteen of the patients were admitted to the Isolation Hospital, 2 were isolated at home, and 1 visitor child was removed to her home town by ambulance.

There were no deaths, most of the cases being of the mild type usual in recent years, but a few were seriously, and 1 visitor very seriously, ill.

INFLUENZA.

Though no definite epidemic of influenza occurred last year, there were 10 notifications of influenzal pneumonia in the first four months of the year and 1 in October, while 14 deaths were certified as due to influenza as a primary or secondary cause.

ENTERIC FEVERS.

There have been no local cases of typhoid fever for the past seven years.

One case of para-typhoid fever was notified last year.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS.

Five cases of acute poliomyelitis were notified between January and August. One patient was a woman who had come to Weston from a distant town on account of her illness,

the nature of which had not been recognised. After notification, she was admitted to the General Hospital and died.

No contact between, or common source of infection of, the 4 local cases could be discovered. Three children were admitted to the Bath Children's Orthopædic Hospital, and the fourth case, an adult female, was treated at home.

FOOD POISONING.

The Local Act of 1934 made food poisoning a notifiable disease in this District. There have been no notifications during the last two years.

MINOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Information as to minor infectious diseases is derived from reports of the Infant Visitors and school notifications.

The following cases are known to have occurred last year :—Measles, 17 ; German measles, 3 ; and whooping-cough, 83. Five children suffering from measles, and 1 from whooping-cough were admitted to the Isolation Hospital. The illnesses were generally of a mild type, and, in spite of a few children developing pneumonia with measles or whooping-cough, no deaths occurred.

SCHOOLS.

The certification of children for exclusion from and re-admission to school on account of infectious diseases is systematised and exclusion and re-admission notices are sent to the parents as well as to the schools. During the past year 31 exclusion certificates were issued in respect of 33 children and 34 re-admission certificates in respect of 35 children.

The Worle Infant School was closed by the County School Medical Officer for a fortnight in June on account of measles and the Christ Church Infants' School for a fortnight in November on account of measles and whooping-cough.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

It has been the routine practice for many years to admit to Hospital as many as possible of the cases of scarlet fever

and diphtheria, as facilities for home isolation are limited in this District where there is so much letting of apartments. Fortunately the Cubicle Block enables this desirable practice to be continued without detriment to the admission of cases of other infectious or suspected infectious diseases. The following summary of admissions last year shows that the Hospital has been used to great advantage.

PATIENTS ADMITTED DURING 1937 :

Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	10
Diphtheria carriers	...	...	...	...	2
Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	15
Para-typhoid fever	...	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	1
Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...	4
Babies with mothers		...	...	...	3
Influenzal pneumonia	...	...	...	...	2
Measles	...	...	...	...	3
Measles and pneumonia		...	...	...	2
Measles and appendicitis (operated)	...				1
Whooping-cough and pneumonia	...				1
Chicken-pox	...	...	...	...	2
Tonsillitis	...	...	...	...	3
Observation	...	...	...	...	6
					—
Total				...	56
					==

One case of diphtheria was admitted for another Health Authority. There was 1 death, that of a visitor child, from diphtheria.

DISINFECTION.

Terminal disinfection after infectious diseases, except tuberculosis, small-pox and the enteric and dysenteric groups, has been abandoned in many towns. In a health resort such as Weston, however, prompt and efficient disinfection after most notifiable diseases is necessary for many reasons. Rooms, furniture, etc., are sprayed or fumigated, and clothing, bedding, etc., steam disinfected. Last year 402 rooms and 2,347 articles were disinfected.

LABORATORY WORK.

Wasserman tests are made at the Bristol University, but most of the other pathological specimens from Weston-super-Mare patients are examined in the County Public Health Laboratory at Taunton. Urgent diphtheria swabs are sent to Taunton by passenger train in time for culturing the same day, thus enabling reports to be available by telephone at 11 o'clock the next morning. This service is not possible at week-ends, but Dr. A. T. F. Rowley kindly examines in his laboratory urgent diphtheria swabs delivered to him on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays.

The following statement shows the results of the examination of specimens from Weston-super-Mare patients during 1937 :

SENT BY WESTON-SUPER-MARE DOCTORS :

	Positive.	Negative.	Total.
Swabs for diphtheria bacilli ...	16	269	285
Sputum for tubercle bacilli ...	5	69	74
Blood for Widal tests :			
Typhoid ...	—	2	2
Paratyphoid ...	1	1	2
Abortus ...	1	1	2

SENT FROM HEALTH DEPARTMENT :

Swabs for diphtheria bacilli ...	8	78	86
Sputum for tubercle bacilli ...	1	2	3
Swabs for hæmolytic streptococci ...	—	13	13
Urine for bacillus coli ...	—	1	1

SWABS FROM ISOLATION HOSPITAL :

Swabs for diphtheria bacilli ...	37	205	242
Swabs for virulence test ...	1	—	1
Specimens for Para-typhoid B	—	2	2

The summary is not complete and does not include specimens taken from Weston-super-Mare patients by doctors residing outside the District, or by the County Tuberculosis and Venereal Diseases Officers.

Tuberculosis.

NOTIFICATIONS AND MORTALITY.

The accompanying table shows the number and the age and sex distribution of the new cases notified, and of the deaths from tuberculosis during 1937.

The new notifications numbered 38 (30 pulmonary and 8 non-pulmonary), as compared with 34 (25 pulmonary and 9 non-pulmonary) in 1936 and 46 (35 pulmonary and 11 non-pulmonary) during 1935.

The deaths from tuberculosis in 1937 were 17 (12 pulmonary and 5 non-pulmonary), equivalent to a death-rate of 0·51 per 1,000 of the population as estimated by the Registrar-General. The tuberculosis deaths numbered 18 in each of the previous three years 1934-36.

As in most health resorts, the tuberculosis mortality is augmented by the deaths of persons who have come to reside in the district on account of tuberculosis or threatened tuberculosis. In spite of such weightings, the following figures show that the local tuberculosis death-rates are below those of the whole country :

TUBERCULOSIS DEATH-RATES PER 1,000 OF POPULATION.

		Weston-super-Mare. England and Wales.					
		1937.	1936.	1935.	1937.	1936.	1935.
Respiratory	...	0·36	0·46	0·52	0·58	0·58	0·60
Other forms	...	0·15	0·09	0·03	0·11	0·11	0·11
		<hr/>					
All forms	...	0·51	0·55	0·55	0·69	0·71	0·69
		<hr/> <hr/>					

TREATMENT, ETC.

The Tuberculosis Scheme for examination and treatment is administered by the County Council.

The Tuberculosis Dispensary for Weston-super-Mare and district is held at Clifton House, 46 The Boulevard, Weston-super-Mare, each Tuesday.

TUBERCULOSIS : NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1937.

AGE Periods in years.	CASES Notified 1937.				DEATHS occurring among Cases Notified in 1937.				TOTAL DEATHS from Tuberculosis in 1937.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
5—14	2	1	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—24	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—34	5	9	—	1	1	1	—	—	3	1	1	1
35—44	1	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
45—54	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	3	2	—	—
55—64	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1
	15	15	3	5	3	1	—	1	6	6	2	3
TOTALS ...	30		8		4		1		12		5	
	38				5				17			

TUBERCULOSIS CARE COMMITTEE.

This Voluntary Committee supplements the County Tuberculosis Scheme by providing needy patients with milk, butter and other special nourishment ; clothing and bedding ; travelling expenses to Sanatoria ; maintenance grants to families while the bread-winner is away ; and in various other ways.

The Medical Officer of Health acts as Chairman of the Committee ; the County Tuberculosis Officer, Dr. Latimer J. Short, attends the meetings of the Executive Committee as Medical Adviser ; and Miss Dallaway, the Tuberculosis Visitor, acts as Secretary. Mrs. A. H. Kitchen, the Honorary Secretary, in the Annual Report for the year ending 31st March, 1938, states that :—

“ During the year the Committee assisted 33 patients, of whom 16 were old and 17 new patients. The total number was nearly the same in each of the four previous years, but there were 8 more new cases than in 1936-37.”

“ The subscriptions and donations amounted to £144. 2s. 6d.”

“ The year's total expenditure totalled £95. 11s. 10d. Milk, butter, eggs and other special nourishment cost £78. 9s. 7d., being £33 less than in the previous year. This considerable saving in the heaviest item of expenditure was due largely to supplying Pasteurised instead of Tuberculin Tested Milk.”

“ The Committee would be obliged if subscribers would send their contributions to Miss Byrnes, “ The Gables,” Uphill, or to Mrs. E. M. Healy, 113 Devonshire Road, or to Mrs. David, 1 Claremont Crescent, Birnbeck Road.”

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1937, for
the Borough of Weston-super-Mare,
on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in
connection with

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1.—INSPECTION

OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES
including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of
Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspec- tions. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecu- tions. (4)
FACTORIES (Including Factory Laundries)	106	1	—
WORKSHOPS (Including Workshop Laundries)	193	81	—
WORKPLACES (Other than Outworkers' premises)	16	—	—
Total	315	82	—

2.—DEFECTS

FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecu- tions. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts* :—</i>				
Want of cleanliness ...	10	10	—	—
Want of ventilation ...	2	2	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances ...	9	8	—	—
Sanitary { insufficient	3	3	—	—
accommo- { unsuitable or				
dation { defective	1	1	—	—
{ not separate				
{ for sexes	—	—	—	—
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)	—	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—
(Excluding offences re- lating to outwork and offences under the Sections men- tioned in the Sche- dule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921).				
Total	25	24	—	—

* Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and
Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

Climatological Observations, 1937.

The observations were taken at the Town Hall and Clarence Park with supplementary ones at Madeira Cove. During the year daily reports were telegraphed to the Meteorological Office of the Air Ministry which, through its daily Weather Report, issued the observations to the newspapers throughout the country. Weekly summaries were also sent to the local Press. From July full monthly corrected records were supplied to the Meteorological Office.

From the end of June the Medical Officer of Health was made responsible for the recording and collation of all the observations. A Bilham screen with new thermometers and a combined thermograph and hygograph were installed at Clarence Park, and a barograph at the Town Hall.

The highest corrected 9 a.m. reading of the barometer during the year was 30·678 inches on 27th December, whilst the lowest was 28·652 inches on 23rd October. In the previous year the highest and lowest uncorrected readings were 30·700 and 28·850 inches respectively.

The highest temperature registered in the Stevenson screen during the year was 84°·8 on 6th August. The lowest was 23°·8 on 21st November. The highest and lowest readings in 1936 were 83°·0 and 26°·0 respectively.

The lowest temperature registered over short grass was 21°·0 on 14th and 21st November and 18th December, as compared with 23°·0 on 4th February and 28th November in 1936.

The day of the highest mean temperature of the air was 6th August—69°·9. The day of the lowest mean temperature was 29th January—29°·0. In 1936 the highest day mean temperature was 72°·5 and the lowest 31°·5.

The mean temperature for the year was 51·2, being 0·6° higher than in 1936.

The average relative humidity of the air taken at 9 a.m. was 84 per cent. This is six points below the average for 1936 and one point below the average for the previous ten years.

The greatest duration of bright sunshine shown by the Campbell-Stokes recorder upon any one day was 14·4 hours

Monthly Results of Climatological Observations, 1937.

1937. Month.	AIR TEMPERATURES.							Amount of Cloud, 9 a.m.	Relative Humidity. 9 a.m.	Amount of Cloud, 9 a.m.	RADIATION		RAIN.		SUN.		Barometer 9 a.m.
	MEANS.						EXTREMES.				Min. on Grass.	Amount. Inches.	No. of days with .04 ins. or more.	Number of Hours.			
	9 a.m.	Min.	Max.	Range	Mean.	Min.	Max.										
January ...	43.2	39.2	48.2	9.0	43.7	27.0	55.0	6.5	95	6.5	37.5	4.50	19	42.9	29.760		
February ...	44.9	41.0	49.1	8.1	45.1	33.0	55.0	6.9	88	6.9	38.4	4.67	18	58.4	29.600		
March ...	40.8	35.3	46.6	11.3	41.0	27.0	56.0	5.2	79	5.2	33.1	3.33	14	118.2	29.645		
April ...	49.6	44.2	55.7	11.5	50.0	37.0	65.0	6.4	82	6.4	42.0	3.11	11	121.4	29.870		
May ...	54.0	47.6	62.8	15.2	55.2	40.0	77.0	5.7	80	5.7	45.0	2.07	11	225.1	30.025		
June ...	59.7	51.8	66.5	14.7	59.2	45.0	75.0	5.8	77	5.8	48.8	0.77	6	217.9	30.096		
July ...	61.7	55.6	67.3	11.7	61.5	47.0	76.5	6.3	83	6.3	54.2	3.51	10	147.3	29.991		
August ...	63.8	56.1	72.3	16.2	64.2	48.2	84.8	4.6	81	4.6	53.4	1.72	7	238.3	30.062		
September...	58.4	51.1	66.0	14.9	58.6	43.2	76.8	3.8	81	3.8	47.2	1.72	7	175.1	29.916		
October ...	51.7	46.4	58.4	12.0	52.4	38.0	66.8	6.4	87	6.4	43.2	4.79	11	88.1	29.981		
November...	41.9	37.8	48.9	11.1	43.4	23.8	58.1	7.7	87	7.7	35.2	2.66	7	60.6	30.001		
December ...	39.5	36.1	45.0	8.9	40.6	25.1	54.9	4.7	85	4.7	33.1	1.57	8	47.9	29.860		
Means and Totals ...	50.7	45.1	57.2	12.1	51.2	36.1	66.7	5.8	84	5.8	42.5	34.42	129	1541.2	29.900		

on 21st June. The total amount of bright sunshine for the year was 1,541·2 hours, as compared with 1,299·7 hours in 1936, and an average of 1,515·9 hours for the ten years 1927—36, showing increases of 241·5 hours and 25·3 hours as compared with 1936 and the average for the ten years 1927—36 respectively. The daily mean of bright sunshine was 4·2 hours, being 0·5 hours and 0·2 hours more than in 1936 (3·7 hours) and 1935 (4·0 hours) respectively.

The total amount of rainfall for the year was 34·42 inches, being 3·06 inches more than in 1936 (31·36 inches) and 2·67 inches above the average (31·75 inches) for the ten years 1927—36. The heaviest fall of rain in any one “rainfall-day”—*i.e.*, 24 hours ending 9 a.m. the next day—was 1·56 inches on 29th October. Rain days (·04 inches or more) numbered 129, as compared with 147 in 1936. January, February and October were the wettest months with totals of 4·50, 4·67 and 4·79 inches of rain respectively. June was the driest month with only ·77 inches.

In England and Wales the rainfall for 1937 was above the average and exceptional in incidence. In each of the five months January to May the rainfall exceeded the average, while the following six months, June to November, were all relatively dry. This distribution also occurred in Weston, except that October was wet instead of December.

In summarising the weather of 1937 in England and Wales the “Meteorological Magazine” mentions the following notable features: The heavy snowfalls of 27th and 28th February and 11th to 13th March and the considerable frost and snow of the period 4th to 21st December; the occasional severe thunderstorms during the summer months; and the frequent and sometimes thick fog in November. Weston escaped very lightly from these adverse conditions. There were only slight snow falls in February and March, while there was *no* snow at all at the end of the year. Only three thunderstorms were recorded in the summer—one with very heavy rain on 15th July. Fog was comparatively slight in November, being recorded at 9 a.m. on only six days: visibility being reduced to 550 yards on one, to 110 yards on two and to 55 yards on three occasions. On only one day did fog cause any inconvenience to the traffic in the town.

Chief Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report for the Year 1937.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF
THE BOROUGH OF WESTON-SUPER-MARE.

MR. MAYOR, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I herewith present my eighteenth Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1937.

The Public Health Act, 1936, came into operation on the 1st October, 1937. This Act repeals the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1875, and also many amending Acts. It also consolidates Public Health Law in general and provides for many important amendments and modifications.

LICENSED PUBLIC HOUSES.

Practically all the work required and referred to in my last report has now been done. The only exceptions are two houses at which the work is standing over pending certain proposed public improvements.

DRAINAGE OF THE DISTRICT.

There now exist in the Borough 181 cesspools, 17 pail closets, and 7 midden privies. These are all in unsewered parts of the district.

FLOODING.

Flooding has again occurred in the areas which have been previously reported on. Your Borough Surveyor is preparing a scheme to deal with this rather serious matter.

POLICE COURT PROCEEDINGS.

It was not found necessary for the department to take any legal proceedings during the past year.

Generally speaking, I have been able to get necessary work done by informal procedure, chiefly by sending intimation letters to the persons in control of property or establishments.

Formal notices were served under the Public Health Acts in respect of ten premises and under the Housing Acts in respect of one house. The work in each case was done by the persons in control.

HOUSING.

Reasonable progress is being made with the repair of working-class property. Recorded inspections were made of 145 houses. Informal notices were served in respect of 48 of these. Very few uncomplained with notices remained on the books at the end of the year.

A total of 61 houses were repaired informally under the Housing Acts. The total number of houses improved under the Public Health and Housing Acts was 180.

You made a Clearance Order in respect of three houses at the corner of Ebdon Road and High Street, Worle, and included in your compulsory purchase scheme one other house and various outbuildings. Your action has been confirmed by the Ministry of Health.

The following houses were demolished :—

Rock Cottage, Kewstoke Road, Worle.

1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 15 and 17 New Street.

Four unoccupied cottages in New Street which were the subject of a Closing Order made in 1913.

8 and 8a Market Lane.

Houses permanently closed under “ undertakings ” :

6 Manor Road.

21c Beach Road.

The following houses were reconditioned under “ undertakings ” :

21b Beach Road.

Montacute Cottage, Hill End, Worle.

1 Vine Cottages, Hill End, Worle.

Demolition Orders were made in respect of :

7, 8 and 9 Reeves Cottages, Carlton Street.

Orchard View, Oldmixon.

Dingley Dell, Oldmixon.

Woodland Cottage, Oldmixon.

Rock Cottage, Spring Hill.

VERMIN INFESTATION.

There has been a diminution of vermin infestation in Council and other houses. For disinfection the Health Department uses various kinds of insecticides sprays and sulphur dioxide. Owing to the difficult structural and physical conditions in one case of persistent infestation, we had to employ a firm of contractors to fumigate with hydrogen cyanide. This was a pair of semi-detached Council houses. There has been no recurrence of infestation on this property. Each case found by inspection or brought to my notice is closely followed up and treated two or three times, according to requirements. Preventive treatment is generally adopted at houses adjoining infested premises.

Primary treatments ...	...	...	49
Secondary treatments	...	...	94
Preventive treatments	...	...	25

OVERCROWDING. HOUSING ACT, 1935.

The overcrowding cases which had been previously noted, and new cases discovered, have been followed up. Owners and house agents have on request been supplied with the "permitted number" of occupiers allowed in respect of the houses in their control. It has been noted that many of the "persons in control" are not complying with the Act, inasmuch as they are not entering on rent books the "permitted number" to occupy the houses, nor the address of the Medical Officer of Health.

In some districts legal proceedings have been taken in respect of such contraventions, but it is not your wish to take action without preliminary cautions.

For details of overcrowding, see Medical Officer of Health's Report, page 33.

RENT RESTRICTIONS ACTS.

No applications for certificates were received.

THEATRES AND PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT.

As your Officer under the Ministry of Health Circular of 25th August, 1920, I have made inspections in the Borough with a view to ensuring that ventilation, sanitation, etc., are well maintained.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS.

The number of premises on the Register is 140. Of these, 39 are bakehouse workshops or bakehouse factories. Twice yearly limewashing is regularly carried out at all bakehouses.

Details of the work done are indicated on page 48.

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

The Health Department administer the Welfare Clauses of this Act.

Shops provided with sanitary accommodation	...	—
Shops provided with washing facilities	...	1
Exemptions given during the year	...	2

HOLIDAY CAMPING GROUNDS.

Complaints were received with regard to the overcrowding, litter and the conduct of campers at certain of the holiday camps. Action was taken in so far as your powers allowed.

It is hoped that the powers under the new Public Health Act, licensing and new byelaws will be of service in enabling me more effectually to regulate the holiday camps which are set up within your District.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are 10 fish friers in the town. Of these, 5 are licensed annually. A gut scrapers' business is carried on at the Public Abattoirs and there is a fellmongers' business established at Rickett's Lane, Worle.

SUMMARY OF VISITS.

BY SANITARY INSPECTOR'S STAFF (not including Health Visitors).

HOUSING—See "Housing and Overcrowding," pages 32 and 33 of Medical Officer of Health's Report.

Total number of inspections and visits	...	...	...	8,297
Nuisances or complaints	...	...	...	645
Work ordered	...	...	...	927
Work in progress	...	...	...	1,147

Drainage Tests Visits—

Smoke tests at existing buildings	...	...	...	59
Water tests at existing buildings	...	...	...	106
Inspection of concrete in connection with drains...				96

Dwelling Houses—

Number inspected under Public Health and Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	569
Number of inspections made for the purpose	...					1,039
Houses inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulation, 1925	...	...	...			145
Number of inspections made for the purpose	...					547
Number of houses inspected (ordinary inspections)						203
Number inspections <i>re</i> vermin	...	...	...			190
Number re-inspections after service of notices under Public Health Act, 1875	...	...	...	...		257
Interviews with agents, owners, contractors, etc.	...					771
Factory inspections	...	...	...	...	...	106

Workshop inspections :—

Ordinary workshop	...	...	...	...	...	55
Domestic workshop	...	...	...	...	...	13
Workplaces	...	...	...	...	...	16
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	138
Outworkers' premises	...	...	...	...	...	16
Shops Act inspections	...	...	...	...	...	22
Cowsheds and farm inspections	...	...	...	...	...	185
Dairies and milkshops inspections	...	...	...	...	...	171
Milk samples	...	...	...	...	...	5
Dust bin inspections	...	...	...	...	...	114
Common lodging house inspections	...	...	...	...	...	46
Ice cream shops and premises	...	...	...	...	...	133
Butchers' shops and Abattoir inspections	...	...	...	...	...	1,490
Food shops and food premises inspections	...	...	...	...	...	492
Offensive trades inspections	...	...	...	...	...	74
Visits <i>re</i> infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	...	300
Tents, vans and sheds inspections	...	...	...	...	...	78
Inspection of premises where animals are kept	...	...	...	...	...	42
Inspection <i>re</i> manure pits	...	...	...	...	...	8
Inspection of public and private refuse tips	...	...	...	...	...	5
Smoke abatement inspections	...	...	...	...	...	23
Public buildings inspections	...	...	...	...	...	69

Petrol spirit licensing inspections	...	...	...	206
Rat infestation inspections	...	...	...	47
Cesspool inspections	...	...	...	54
Water samples taken	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	279

WORK DONE.

Houses repaired (Housing and Public Health Acts)	...	180
Houses repaired informally under Housing Acts	...	61
Houses repaired formally under Housing Acts	...	5
Houses cleansed and decorated	...	61
Rooms cleansed and decorated	...	244
Rooms repaired	...	178
Roofs repaired or stripped and retiled or slated	...	65
Floors relaid or repaired	...	89
Skirtings, etc., of rooms renewed or repaired	...	8
Fire grates renewed or repaired	...	53
Doors repaired or new doors fixed	...	17
Stairs repaired or new fixed	...	4
Windows renewed or repaired	...	122
Ventilation and/or lighting improved	...	18
Food stores provided or improved	...	3
Plastering of walls and/or ceilings of rooms repaired or stripped	...	89
Rain water spouting or guttering repaired or renewed	...	27
Rain water cisterns repaired, abolished or new fixed	...	12
Walls pointed and repaired or rendered	...	17
External plaster repaired or re-rendered	...	9
Chimney stacks repaired or rebuilt	...	19
Earth banks removed from houses	...	1
Cavity walls provided	...	3
Sites concreted under living rooms	...	8
Damp proof courses inserted	...	11
Floor timbers treated for dry rot	...	9
Sanitary sinks provided	...	24
Yards paved, repaired or relaid	...	39
Tenants required to amend conditions	...	47
Houses treated for vermin infestation	...	49
Refuse bins provided	...	41

Water Supply :—	
Houses provided with a proper supply	2
For privy and cesspool conversions <i>see</i> “ Drainage.”	
Factories and Workshops :—	
See Factory and Workshops Report, p. 48	
Bakehouses :—	
Cleansed and limewashed	78
Sanitary and structural conditions improved ...	
Contraventions	
Common lodging houses, limewashed and cleansed ...	2
Dairies and Milk Shops :—	
Sanitary and structural conditions improved ...	3
Contraventions	5
Cowsheds :—	
Sanitary and structural conditions improved ...	4
Drained or drainage improved	3
Approaches improved	4
Floors and channels relaid or improved	4
Contraventions	13
Ice-cream premises :—Sanitary conditions improved...	1
Offensive trades :—Sanitary conditions improved ...	—
Trade premises :—Sanitary conditions improved ...	27
Accumulations of manure or offensive matter removed	4
Animals and Poultry :—Nuisances abated	1
Rat infestation :—Premises dealt with	5
Drainage—	
Drains relaid at existing houses	21
Drains cleared, cleansed or repaired	111
Drains trapped and properly ventilated	16
Premises supplied with additional drainage ...	36
Additional drains provided	61
New drain inspection chambers provided	50
Premises supplied with additional water closets ...	23
Additional water closets provided	34
Foul water drains removed from premises	—
Rain water pipes disconnected from foul water drains	—
Water closets or urinals repaired or reconstructed ...	46
New water closet pedestals fixed	59
New water closet flushing cisterns fixed	60
New baths fixed	24

New lavatory basins fixed	...	...	...	...	110
Soil pipes and drain ventilators repaired	...	...	...	...	18
Soil pipes and drain ventilators fixed	...	...	...	...	15
Waste pipes fixed, repaired or reconstructed	...	...	...	...	118
Ashpit or pail closets converted to water closets or abolished	...	...	...	...	1
Cesspools abolished and houses drained to the sewer	...	...	...	...	12
Nuisances from overflowing cesspools abated	...	...	...	...	3
Ditches and back lanes cleansed	...	...	...	...	4
Accumulations of rubbish removed	...	...	...	...	47
Smoke or Fumes :—Nuisances abated or complaints dealt with	...	...	...	...	2
Infectious Disease Disinfections—	Rooms.	Articles.			
Scarlet fever	25	350			
Diphtheria	25	349			
Tuberculosis	46	555			
Non-notifiable diseases...	37	726			
Cancer	11	80			
Erysipelas	1	16			
Scabies	1	75			
Puerperal fever	2	36			
Pneumonia	1	21			
Poliomyelitis	2	9			
Vermin	244	129			
Dry rot	7	—			
	<u>402</u>	<u>2,347</u>			
Defects reported to Surveyor's Department	...	...			38

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

PARTICULARS OF REGISTER.

Number of Producers on the Register	...	...	...	26
Number of Distributors divided as follows :—				
A. Distributors only	...	...	...	94
Distributors only who are outside the Borough (included above)	...	...	...	32
B. Distributors who are also producers (included above)	...	...	...	15

(A producer is only included as a distributor if he definitely makes a business of selling his milk by retail to individual customers.)

Number of licences given to Designated Milk distributors, Pasteurised (Supplementary)	2
Tuberculin tested, A. Bottler	1
(withdrawn by the Council for irregularities)	
„ „ B. Supplementary	2

There is only one accredited milk producer in the district.

The following milk samples were submitted to the County Bacteriologist for examination :—

Pasteurised	10
Accredited milk	6
Herd milk for presence of tubercle bacilli ...	6

The improved methods of milk production noted in my last report appear to have been fairly well maintained, but there is scope for considerable improvement. Occasional lapses have been found and dealt with forthwith.

ICE CREAM MAKERS AND SELLERS.

Particulars of register :—

Makers only	2
Vendors only	86
Vendors and makers	51

MEAT AND FOOD CONTROL.

There are no private slaughter-houses in the Borough. Butchers' shops are regularly inspected. The general upkeep and cleanliness in handling continue to be of a good standard. The meat purveyors willingly co-operate with the Officers of the Department and readily notify me of any unusual conditions that they may note.

Food premises, other than those of meat purveyors, are also inspected.

Number of premises on the register for the preparation of pickled, preserved, etc., meats	42
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ANIMALS KILLED AT THE PUBLIC ABATTOIR.

	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937
Pigs	3,117	3,498	4,954	4,695	4,357	4,528	4,718	4,413
Sheep	10,990	10,176	11,615	13,668	12,375	11,902	11,283	9,943
Calves	773	676	672	678	776	795	914	939
Beasts	1,230	1,063	939	1,039	1,172	1,440	1,432	1,313

The slaughtering fees at the Public Abattoir are as follows :—

Pigs ...	...	...	...	...	1s. 3d.
Sheep	...	...	...	...	9d.
Calves	...	...	...	...	1s. 3d.
Beasts	...	...	...	...	3s. 0d.

The following tables show the percentage of animals killed at the Abattoirs which were found by macroscopic inspection to be affected in some degree with tuberculosis and other diseases :—

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle, exclud- ing Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known) ...	723	590	939	9,943	4,413
Number inspected ...	723	590	939	9,943	4,413
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS.					
Whole carcasses condemned	0	0	0	14	11
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	38	53	0	79	132
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis	0·5	0·89	0·0	0·93	3·2
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	11	0	0	8
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	27	59	0	0	395
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	3·7	10·0	0·0	0·0	8·95

DISEASED MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The total weight of diseased, unsound or injured meat and organs condemned was :—

Tuberculous :—	Cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	Cwt.	qrs.	lbs.
Beef and organs, including twelve carcasses and seven quarters ...	116	1	26			
Pigs and organs, including eight carcasses ...	69	0	8			
<hr/>						
Total weight of tuberculous meat ...				185	2	6
Non-Tuberculous	Cwts.	qrs.	lbs.			
Beef and organs ...	12	3	1			
Pigs , including eleven carcasses and organs ...	11	3	3			
Sheep and lambs , including fourteen carcasses and organs ...	7	1	1			
<hr/>						
Total weight of non-tuberculous meat ...				31	3	5
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Total weight of all meat condemned				217	1	11
<hr/> <hr/>						

FOOD CONDEMNED FROM PREMISES IN THE TOWN.

TINNED GOODS.

Fruit, vegetables, meat, etc. ... 35 tins

OTHER FOODS.

Beef and offals ...	308lbs.
Lamb and offals ...	72lbs.
Pork and bacon ...	119lbs.
Cooked meats, etc. ...	15lbs.
Kippers ...	227 pairs
Cockles ...	2 gallons and 8 bags
Shrimps ...	10lbs. and 2 bags

DISEASED OR INJURED MEAT CONDEMNED AT THE ABATTOIRS.

	Tuberculosis.				Cirrhosis. (Distoma Hepaticum)				Distoma Hepaticum	Emaciation	Pericarditis	Necrosis	Swine Erysipelas	Inflammation &/or Fevered conditions	Jaundice	Arthritis	Pneumonia	Melanosis	Pleurisy	Abscesses	Cystic-Tenuicollis	Cirrhosis	Actinomycosis	Injury	Swine Fever	TOTAL
	Bullocks	Heifers	Cows	Total	Bullocks	Heifers	Cows	Total																		
CATTLE.																										
Carcase and all offal	-	1	11	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Quarters ...	-	1	6	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Heads and tongues ...	1	12	40	53	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	55
Lungs ...	-	20	42	62	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	64
Livers ...	-	6	20	26	-	26	40	66	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	117
Spleens ...	-	2	14	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
Guts ...	-	5	26	31	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	31
Stomachs ...	-	5	20	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25
Skirtings ...	-	4	10	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
Hearts ...	-	20	41	61	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	61
Kidneys ...	-	2	3	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Pigs.																										
Carcases	...	8							-	5	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	19
Heads	...	217							-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	217
Plucks	...	59							-	6	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	71
Spleens	...	11							-	5	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	21
Stomachs	...	10							-	5	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19
Guts	...	276							-	6	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	287
Kidneys	...	-							-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Livers	...	-							-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	54	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	13
Lungs	...	-							-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	54
Legs	...	-							-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
Hearts	...	-							-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60
Fore Quarters	...	-							-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
SHEEP.																										
Carcase and Offal	...	-							-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
Livers	...	-							-	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	65
Plucks	...	-							-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

Mr. H. F. Hardiman, the Somerset County Food and Drugs Inspector, has kindly supplied the following statement of the samples of foods, drugs and drinks taken for analysis by the Public Analyst during 1937 :—

Sample taken.	Result of Analysis.
1 Butter	Genuine
1 Canned peaches	„
1 Condensed milk	„
1 Cheese	„
1 Lard	„
1 Raisins	„
1 Sultanas	„
1 Scotch whisky	„
1 Concentrated lemon	„
1 Lemon squash	„
1 Honey	„
1 Meat paste	„
1 Fish paste	„
1 Sweet pickles	„
1 Borax	„
1 Bicarbonate of soda	„
2 Blackcurrant jam	„
43 Milks	42 genuine
	1 adulterated
	(caution administered)

I have to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, the Mayor and Members of the Council, the Medical Officer of Health and other Members of your Health Department Staff, and the other Council officials who have so kindly co-operated in the work of the Department.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

H. W. BLADON,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.



